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February 9, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Caroline Kwan
Remedial Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Progress Report No. 7 – January 2012
Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Anchor QEA is submitting this monthly progress report for the Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on behalf of the Respondents to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). As set forth in Section 42 of said Settlement Agreement, this progress report is divided into the following areas:

1. Actions taken to comply with the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
2. Results of sampling and tests and all other data received by Respondents to the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
3. Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays
4. Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

1. Actions Taken to Comply with Settlement Agreement during Previous Month

- Technical Documents
 - USEPA provided comments on the Draft Modeling Approach Memorandum (1) on January 5. Responses to these comments were submitted to USEPA on January 20.
 - USEPA provided comments on the Draft Reference Area Selection Memorandum on January 23. Anchor QEA has set a meeting with USEPA to discuss these comments further on February 14.
 - The revised Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA) Technical Memorandum No. 1 was submitted to USEPA on January 31.
- Phase 1 Field Activities
 - On January 20, Anchor QEA notified USEPA that: 1) the first round of the surface water sampling was planned for the week of February 5; and 2) a current meter reconnaissance survey was planned for February 28.
- Evaluation of the cultural resources information continued.
- Historical data collection, inventory, and review efforts continued.
- Planning for 2012 field activities continued.
- Development of the project website continued.

2. Results of Sampling and Tests and Other Data Received by Respondents during Previous Month

- Preliminary results of the hydrographic, side scan sonar, and magnetometer surveys are undergoing quality control (QC) review and will be provided to USEPA once QC activities are completed.
- Preliminary data from the shoreline survey and opportunistic water sampling are undergoing QC review and will be provided to USEPA once QC activities are completed.

3. Encountered and Anticipated Problems and/or Delays, and Solutions Developed and Implemented to Address Them

- In an e-mail dated January 5, 2012, USEPA agreed with maintaining the original AOC schedule for the Phase 1 RI Interim Data Report and Phase 1 RI Work Plan Addendum, and approved the Respondents' request for maintaining the submittal date for these documents of May 29, 2012.

4. Work Planned for the Next Two Months with Schedules Relating to the Overall Project Schedule for RI/FS Completion

- Commence response to USEPA comments on prior draft submittals, in accordance with the RI/FS schedule:
 - Draft Reference Area Site Selection Memorandum (responses due to USEPA on February 23)
 - Draft Preliminary ARAR and TBC Tables for Consideration at Newtown Creek
 - Draft Modeling Approach Memorandum (1)
- Perform the following Phase 1 field activities scheduled for the next two months:
 - The first two rounds surface water column sampling are planned for the weeks of February 6 and March 5, respectively
 - Aerial photo survey is planned for the week of February 27
 - A current meter location reconnaissance survey is planned for the week of February 27
- Provide to USEPA results of the opportunistic water sampling conducted during the shoreline survey once QC activities are completed.
- Provide to USEPA results of the hydrographic, side scan sonar, and magnetometer surveys once QC activities are completed.
- Retrieve and review existing data to support identification of preliminary reference areas.
- Continue historical data collection, inventory, and review activities.
- Continue planning for 2012 RI-related field activities.
- Continue to develop the Newtown Creek project website.

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 571-0912 (e-mail: jquadrini@anchorgea.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Quadrini", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Quadrini, P.E., BCEE

Anchor QEA, LLC

cc: Nica Klaber, USEPA Region 2 Remedial Project Manager
Michael Mintzer, USEPA Region 2 Assistant Regional Counsel
Ian Beilby, NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
Dennis M. Reznick, Common Counsel for Newtown Creek Group Respondents
Susan Amron, Counsel for Respondent, City of New York